

Message Text

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S/S; O PJOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163210 TOSEC 060090

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCNF, PFOR, MX.

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO
GOM OVER ACTIONS OF ITS DELEGATION AT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.
(S/S NO.7514084)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

1. THE PROBLEM.

YOU SUGGESTED LAST WEEK THAT WE MAKE CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE MEXICAN DELEGATION'S ROLE IN THE ATTEMPTS TO OUST JOHN HANNAH FROM HIS POSITION AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS. ; HAVE LOOKED INTO THE QUESTION.

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ACCORDING TO OFFICERS OF EB AND IO WHO ATTENDED THE

CONFERENCE, MEXICO WAS NOT THE RINGLEADER IN THE ATTACK ON MR. HANNAH, BUT SECONDED ACTION INITIATED BY SENEGAL AND GUINEA. THEY POINT OUT THAT WHILE THE MEXICAN DELEGATION JOINED SOME OF THE OTHER NATIONS IN THE DRIVE

TO OUST MR. HANNAH, AND WAS DIFFICULT, IT DID NOT SPARK THE CONTROVERSY AND WAS NOT THE MOST VOCIFEROUS IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

3. RECOMMENDATION. THAT WE NOT MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST TO MEXICO BUT RATHER THAT AMBASSADOR JOVA BE INSTRUCTED TO BRING OUR CONCERN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOM ORALLY, AS OUTLINED IN THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FOR YOUR APPROVAL.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

BEGIN TEXT.

1. DURING MEETING OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) IN ROME JUNE 23-27, MEXICO PARTICIPATED IN AN ATTACK ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH, AND IN CALL FOR OUSTER OF ENTIRE SECRETARIAT. HANNAH HAD BEEN APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL BY UN SECGEN WALDHEIM AND WE ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO KEEP WALDHEIM FROM DISMISSING HANNAH BEFORE HIS TERM EXPIRES.

2. PLEASE TAKE EARLY APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR SURPRISE AND CONCERN OVER ROLE MEXICAN DELEGATION PLAYED IN ATTACK ON AND ATTEMPTED OUSTER OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH. WE BELIEVE HANNAH WELL QUALIFIED FOR POSITION WALDHEIM APPOINTED HIM TO AND THAT ATTACK AGAINST HIM WAS COMPLETELY UNWARRANTED. THIS ATTACK, IN WHICH MEXICAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATED, CAN SERVE ONLY TO WEAKEN EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNCIL. PLEASE POINT OUT TO MEXICANS THAT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH THEM OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS WITH THEM AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, AND THAT ACTIONS SUCH AS THOSE ENGAGED IN BY MEXICAN DELEGATION TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ARE CERTAINLY NOT CONSISTENT WITH THIS GOAL, INJECT UNNECESSARY IRRITANTS INTO

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OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND CLEARLY HAMPER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THESE CONFERENCES.
END TEXT.
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